



INTERGROUP
ON THE WELFARE
& CONSERVATION
OF ANIMALS



CASE STUDY

Ilha de Faro, Portugal



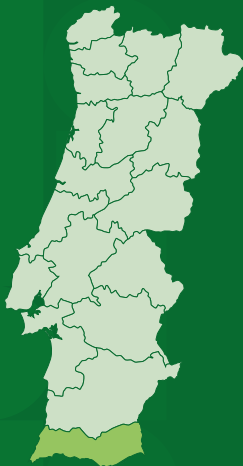
WHERE: Ilha de Faro,
Faro (Algarve), Portugal



WHEN: 2014–Ongoing



WHO: Animais de Rua (Lead),
Change for Animals Foundation,
Dogs Trust, Royal Canin,
Mission Rabies, International
Companion Animal
Management, International
Cat Care, Lusófona University,
Faro City Hall, Local
Veterinarian Clinics



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Ilha de Faro is a small peninsula in the southwest of Faro city with only two points of contact to the mainland.

Due to its small size (10km long and up to 100 meters wide) and its geographical characteristics, most of the south area of the peninsula is very isolated. In the mentioned area, **Animais de Rua** found more than 230 stray cats and 100 dogs. In order to responsibly manage the existing cat and dog's populations, this project included a cooperation network, engagement process with local community, mass sterilisation of all the animals, and finally a genetic study to learn of their origin.

COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT:

The project was developed in partnership with several organisations and with the approval of the Portuguese veterinarian authorities. While implementing the project, the difficulties identified at the level of bureaucracy and law restrictions helped **Animais de Rua** to define the future policy making changes needed. Besides policy makers, another critical part was the relationship with the population of the peninsula. It was of the utmost importance to engage the local community since most of the animals were fed by the island habitants themselves.

1 Background

2 Implementation

3 Monitoring and Evaluation

4 Impact

PROJECT STAGES:

Four surveys (two winter surveys and two summer surveys between 2014–2017) were conducted to better understand the number of stray animals and the real veterinary needs.






Animais de Rua has built an Emergency Veterinary Hospital on the peninsula with two surgical rooms and two teams of volunteers. This stage lasted for two weeks, one week was focused on trapping and neutering the animals and the other week on a mass communication campaign aimed at the island inhabitants.

The longest stage of the project that will last up to several years. **Animais de Rua** continues to frequently visit the island to monitor the number of animals as well as to neuter any new ones that appear. In parallel, in cooperation with the academia, researchers partners took the genetic samples of the animals, studying their genetic pool and subsequently publishing the results.

In total, 333 animals were neutered (223 cats and 110 dogs), and more than 90% of the peninsula's human population were contacted and informed about the benefits of the Trap/Catch, Neuter and Return (T/CNR) tool. According to the last survey of March 2021, there were only 51 stray animals on the island (44 cats and 7 dogs). According to the local population, the number of stray animals seeking veterinary care has declined abruptly, especially in relation to road incidents.



PROJECT TOOLBOX:

-  Promoting responsible ownership
-  Trap/Catch, Neuter and Return (T/CNR)
-  Veterinary care
-  Survey with geolocation tools, including Rabies App provided by Mission Rabies and Tallea provided by the International Companion Animal Management coalition (ICAM)
-  Academic research

